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New life for old mill uplifts town

By GILLIAN GOSGROVE
of The Gazette

TEMISCAMING — Happiness is watching the smokestacks thrust their billowing fumes into the air, pumping new life into a town which barely escaped extinction.

And yesterday as the smoke swept over this town huddled on the cliffs above the Ottawa River, 200 miles northwest of Montreal, some 5,000 people from across Canada and the United States gathered to pay tribute to the 2,500 townsfolk who refused to let their town die.

It was the official reopening of the 35-year old Kipawa Pulp Mill, the only industry of the town.

The former owner, Canadian International Paper Co. (CIP) closed the mill on June 1, 1972, throwing more than 300 mill and woodland workers out of a job.

But the undaunted paperworkers union, the townsfolk, and some former CIP employees formed a company and put the mill back into operation on Oct. 1, 1973.

Tembec Forest Products Inc., with the aid of a $4.8 million federal grant and $5.5 million in provincial aid, bought the mill 18 months after its closing and resurrected the dying town.

Yesterday as Quebec Lands and Forests Minister Kevin Drummond unveiled a commemorative plaque, it was a time for celebration, back-slapping and hauling out the dancing shoes.

"Just look at the people here," said an exuberant Charlie Carpenter, the local head of the Canadian Paperworkers Union. "They're all rejoicing. Last June the economy of this town was deader than last year's crane at rabbits."

The entire town scrubbed up for the gala ceremony and as druggist Bill Clark put it: "If you stood still a couple of days ago, you would have received a fresh coat of paint."

UNIQUE SOCIAL EXPERIMENT

There's no word to describe the sense of achievement of the townspeople. The mood of the town is like a young man who has shrugged off the grips of paternalism, suffered the agony of an orphan and finally made a go of it on his own.

Tembec, owned 48 per cent by the town residents and the union who also have a 16 per cent cut in profit sharing, is heralded as a unique social experiment in Canada.

Henri Lorrain, president of the Canadian Paperworkers Union, said: "We have impressed on the people of Quebec and Canada that we can no longer tolerate unilateral decisions made by multi-national corporations."

CIP, a New York-based firm, cited profit losses as the reason for closing the Kipawa Mill but Tembec president George Petty said the mill was already making money after the first three months of operation.

Social Credit Leader Real Caouette, returning from national campaigning to his Temiscamingue riding, praised the town for holding up an example for Quebec and all of Canada.

"It is the first time in Canadian history that we have a mill where the working man is a participant in the operation," Caouette told an enthusiastic crowd.

At the unveiling of the Tembec plaque, the crowd's fervor reached a pitch with a thunderous standing ovation.

(Gazette, Lon Stevens)

Quebec Lands and Forests Minister Kevin Drummond (left) and Marcel Prud'homme, MP for Montreal - St. Denis who represented the federal government at yesterday's official Tembec unveiling ceremonies. In the background is the chip conveyor belt of the reactivated mill.

Buying spree bill a loss to store

By LEON LEVINSON
of The Gazette

Robert Simpson Montreal Ltd. has to pay for a woman's $1,166 shopping spree, a judge ruled yesterday.

The woman used a $100-limit credit card to make her purchases.

Provincial Court Chief Judge Alan B. Gold rejected the action by the St. Catherine St. West department store to recover the amount from the man with whom the woman had been living.

The evidence showed Mrs. Maureen McAllister, separated from her husband, represented herself as the defendant's wife in applying for the "charge-plate" from the store's credit department in December 1971.

One of the clauses in the standard contract she signed to obtain the credit card, states that the signatory "warrants she signs as her husband's agent with his express authority . . . and agrees all purchases will be made only so long as such authority continues."

'UNUSUAL BEHAVIOR'

Judge Gold said her "unusual behavior, to say the least, is matched only by that of the plaintiff's credit department in checking the bona fides of the applicant."

There was no specific evidence, he said, that anything was done to verify the information given by the woman.

It was certain, he said the defendant had no knowledge of the account until almost six months after it was opened.

The evidence showed the woman ran up a bill for $813, despite the $100 credit limit, and hid the bills from McAllister.

After the store had received several NSF cheques from the woman, a credit department employee telephoned McAllister about "his wife's delinquent account."

The surprised defendant said he had no wife, had never authorized the woman to open the account and knew nothing about it. He suggested the account be closed to avoid further complications.

'NO MARRIAGE'

"Strangely enough," said the judge, "the account was not closed immediately, leaving Mrs. M. time enough to do more shopping and to run her account up to $1,166."

When pressed to pay her bill the woman gave the store four post-dated cheques which were returned NSF. The store's action followed.

Judge Gold said the Civil Code article which refers to "domestic mandate" could not help the department store's case, since it applies only to a married couple.

"Where there is no marriage there is no mandate."

He rejected the store's submission the defendant was responsible because he authorized the woman to make her purchases or closed his eyes to them deliberately.

There was neither express or tacit authorization given the woman by the defendant, nor did he see the greater part of her purchases, the judge ruled.

Ted Blackman

FLQ meets tonight in Toronto

The FLQ is meeting in Toronto tonight. Yup, the FLQ — "Fellows who Left Quebec" because their head offices were moved to Toronto. Ex-Montrealer Rosa Boyle, current president, says a group of expatriates came up with the idea over a few tall, cool ones two years ago and membership has now grown to 120. "We have a manifesto, we're divided up into cells and we wear tongues at the six dinner meetings we hold each year," Boyle says. "It's all good-natured, of course. Our official name is 'The Quebec Society of Upper Canada' and the motto on our masthead says "dedicated to a greater understanding between the peoples of Upper and Lower Canada." Boyle, with Niagara Finance, will preside over tonight's get-together at the Argonaut Rowing Club.

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Reports of the demise of the **Rockettes** are premature — as several readers happily pointed out yesterday. Our apologies to Air Canada for the undeserved barb. We thought the Radio City Music Hall act had died in '47, but new knees in was only a strike that shut them down that summer. "We've been going since 1932 and more than 20,000 dancers have performed on the stage," the lady in New York told us. Hmmm, that's 40,000 great legs.

Too many companies are now using credit ratings to intimidate customers. One reader says she forgot to send **Dominion Life Assurance** another set of 12 postdated mortgage cheques and was told "to forward them immediately to protect credit standings." She felt they could have used the heavy guns for subsequent requests and could have been gentler in their first letter . . . **Lord's Sports Shop**, an institution in this city, has gone bankrupt — as you may have noticed. Though it moved only a few blocks from its longtime location at Mountain and St. Catherine, traffic was never as heavy and the final/skiing discount sports shops did Lord's in as it did Streeter and Quarles and others. "Tough break for Myer Insky, a great guy," says Harry Ross, his longtime buddy . . . If your regimen takes you north on Decarie and east along the Metropolitan, watch out for the **Quebec provincials** at the up-ramp. Double white lines have been painted between the middle and left hand lanes, forcing you to get into the right lane 300 yards before the ramp, and if you cross 'em it'll cost you . . . A letter came in the mail yesterday asking for "**your personal aid**" in promoting a gymnastics symposium. it was mimeographed.

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The **Queen E** is pulling for the Expos, but John Breheer says "we'd be in a tight spot if they make it to the World Series because we have two big conventions booked in early October." Somehow they'll handle it, though. Last year NBC reserved 328 rooms when the Expos made motions toward a pennant but haven't called yet about 1974 accommodations — and in view of the Expos' horror show on NBC last Monday on one should be surprised . . . **Donna Jordan** (488-7985) has an Opportunities For Youth program going in NDG called "Fresh Start" and could use old sports equipment and arts and crafts material for her day camp for underprivileged kids . . . I've got a great idea for Bob LeJeb if he wants a "referendum" on **Bill 22**. Have George Springate and Kevin Drummond resign their seats and call by-elections, pitting the two against each other in the same riding. The Liberals could throw all their machinery behind Drummond while Springate runs as an impoverished independent. Five bucks on George . . . Government sources tell me **P. Trudeau's** new railway policy means modernization of the commuter trains in the island area. Under a 100% financial subsidy, all the 20-year-old cars now in service would be replaced by modern conveyances and the word "comfortable" is undefined . . . Overheard at the **Bourgeful**, "He's a real Don Juan alright, and I Don Juan anything to do with him."

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Prime Minister Trudeau has privately assured his Quebec candidates that he's going to unload on Bill 22 any day now unless he receives assurances from Premier Bourassa that it will be modified to guarantee freedom of choice, to all parents to educate their children in either language. The federal Liberals have been getting heavy static at the riding level from all sides — English, French and new Canadian. Watch for fireworks shortly . . . **La Roma** will be closed until September as the new owners undertake a $150,000 facelift that includes a sidewalk cafe . . . On Father's Day, a chap we know took his son to **Blue Bonnets** and lost the first six races, reducing his bankroll to $2. Meanwhile, the guy at the next table was cashing tickets all afternoon. "Follow him and do whatever he does," he said to his son, handing him the dance to bet the seventh race. Two minutes later the 10-year-old returned with the same thing as the winner — two hot dogs and a Coke . . . **Henry Kissinger**, in Ottawa for NATO talks, made a secret overnight trip to Montreal — but despite his talents wasn't able to resolve the Bill Mann — Juan Rodriguez dispute over David Bowie.

St. Jean Baptiste Day

No mail delivery on Monday

Most Montreal business offices and retail outlets will close Monday as St. Jean Baptiste Day is observed across the province.

All government offices, federal, provincial and municipal courts and Quebec Liquor Corporation stores will be closed.

All major department stores will shut their doors, as will all banks and the Montreal Stock Exchange.

There will be no mail delivery and all postal offices will be closed, while mail pickup and special delivery service will operate on a Sunday schedule.

On the municipal front, only emergency services — fire, police and ambulance — will operate as usual.

SWIMMING POOLS

Garbage collection will be delayed until the next regular collection day.

All municipal libraries and branches will be closed.

Indoor municipal swimming pools will be closed, but all outdoor pools, not in process of renovation, will open their seasons on the holiday.

The Metro and city buses will operate on a Sunday schedule, according to the Montreal Urban Community Transit Commission.

Long-distance trains and buses will run on a regular schedule, although a ticket collectors' rotating strike may inconvenience passengers at the Voyageur bus terminal.

LA RONDE OPEN

Nightclubs, taverns and other liquor establishments are allowed to operate normally and the sale of beer and cider in grocery stores is permitted.

La Ronde, Man and His World and the Aquarium on Ile St. Helene will be open as usual for the holiday, as will the art centre on top of Mount Royal.

The Dow Planetarium will close — as it normally does on Mondays.

The botanical gardens and municipal golf courses will open.

The Maison du Calvet, where the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts is presenting an exhibition of early Quebec furniture, will be closed.

Language 'pedigree' proof urged

QUEBEC — (Gazette) — Only children of parents who can prove an English-Canadian pedigree should be allowed an English language education in Quebec, a brief from the Federation des Associations Chambres du Canada Francais says.

The language of education recommendation was one of several in the Jeune Chambre's brief — presented last night to the National Assembly committee examining the language bill — designed to beef up the legislation as "French will not only be the official language but also the predominant language in Quebec."

The brief also recommends:

• Every person who deals with the Quebec government or any public body must do so in French.

• All collective agreements must be drawn up in French, even if the majority of workers in a factory are English.

The brief contrasts sharply with the recommendations presented to the committee earlier yesterday by the Provincial Association of Protestant Teachers (PAPT).

The PAPT asked English maintain its status as an official language in the province, warning:

"The government must understand the English-speaking population of Quebec feels insecure and deeply threatened by recent pressures, which seem to it to call for a unilingual Quebec."

On the subject of public administration the PAPT brief points out:

"While the bill would allow an individual to communicate with public administration in either French or English at the choice of the individual."

The Protestant teachers also recommend parents be allowed to maintain the freedom of choice they have now as to the language of education for their children.

They claim forcing immigrant children to attend French schools is "an inadequate response to the desire to have immigrants integrate into Quebec's French milieu.

"If French were the true working language of the province and immigrants could be assured full economic and social opportunity was afforded them by assimilating into the French-speaking milieu, they would voluntarily go to French schools," the brief says.

Ticket staff, clerks strike at Voyageur

By STAN CZIEWICZ
of The Gazette

About 100 tickets sellers, information clerks and parcel deliverymen launched a rotating strike yesterday at the Berri St. Voyageur bus terminal.

No major disruption of service is anticipated during the St. Jean Baptiste holiday weekend.

"There could be some minor inconveniences for passengers buying tickets," said Voyageur labor relations manager Robert Pitre, "but it's not a major problem."

Pitre said services are maintained by office employees unaffected by the walkout and Voyageur is confident they can handle the increased passenger load expected during the holiday.

TWO HOURS EARLY

The strike action was taken by members of the Voyageur Transport Terminal Workers Union — affiliated with the Confederation of National Trade Unions — after contract talks deadlocked after six months. Bus drivers are not involved.

Workers are walking off their shifts two hours early, union president Ro'land Soucheresn said yesterday.

He said the union is asking wage increases of $1 an hour, improved pension benefits, work week reductio to 38 from 40 hours and the introduction of two paid sick days a year.

A two-year contract expired last Dec. 31.

Union urges centre probe

The union representing 48 employees at a north-end centre for children, has call'ed for a public inquiry into its operation.

Union spokesman Gerald Trottier said conditions at the Notre Dame du Perpetuel Secours Centre, which serves as a short-term boarding house for children, are deplorable.

Trottier said the centre was built to accommodate 28 youngsters but has housed 48 since 1967. The children have only a minimum of recreational equipment and the food is poor.

Children are often fed leftovers from meals served to an order of nuns, whose adjacent residence shares the kitchen with the children's home, he said.

The centre is funded by the Quebec department of social affairs and has an annual budget of approximately $250,000.

The union said the centre's administration should apply more pressure on the social affairs department for adequate funds to run the home.

Political link queries normal, says Bourassa

QUEBEC — (CP) — Premier Robert Bourassa said yesterday it is normal for his brother-in-law Claude Simard, minister of tourism, fish and game, to inquire into the political allegiance of some civil servants before hiring them.

Replying to questions by Parti Quebecois House Leader Hebert Burns during a study of cabinet spending estimates, Bourassa said there is nothing "abnormal" about making such inquiries before filling certain important government positions.

"The decision is up to each minister and I am confident in their judgment," the premier said.

Burns noted article 35 of the Civil Service Act forbids civil servants to be politically partisan.

Simard has admitted he sometimes checks the political preferences of civil servants before hiring them to avoid "reactionary or extremist" employees.

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